

Operationalizing climate predictions and working towards a Climate Services Information System: A WMO Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS) Project

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The Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS) project was established by WMO in 1995 upon endorsement by the Twelfth World Meteorological Congress, as a new paradigm for climate services based on the vision that socio-economic decisions can benefit substantially from better knowledge of both contemporary and near-future climate conditions. The CLIPS project was conceived as an implementation arm of the World Climate Applications and Services Programme (WCASP), to build on the ongoing research advances and evolving operational networks, particularly on the regional and national scales. The principal objective of CLIPS is to develop the capacity of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to take advantage of the recent advances in climate science and to pass along the benefits to improve climate services with a user focus. The CLIPS Project builds on the past decades of successful atmospheric and oceanographic research, and on established operational meteorological and hydrological networks involving international and regional centres as well as the NMHSs. At the same time, it builds on a developing capability to predict climate on monthly, seasonal and interannual time scales. The CLIPS Project is working to ensure that the NMHSs are assisted in the design, production, and dissemination of the full suite of climate services. CLIPS is designed to stimulate the use of sector-specific information, in an ongoing, iterative process of dialogue between the producers of climatic information and the multitude of users in government, academia, private industry and the media. The main project components of CLIPS include training and capacity building, development of best practices in operational climate services including verification and user liaison, communication of El Niño/La Niña and related aspects, determining research needs and liaison with research programmes, demonstration/showcase projects, and regional as well as climate provider-user networking and consensus building. WMO Commission for Climatology (CCI) recognized the impetus provided by the CLIPS project in the development of the concept of climate services around the world, particularly in capacity-building and development of operational mechanisms. Considering that the outcomes of the World Climate Conference Three (WCC-3) provide a way forward to the logical evolution of the CLIPS concept, CCI agreed that CLIPS should gradually conclude as a project, and to work towards consolidating the achievements of the CLIPS project and determining its legacy in the context of the development of GFCS, particularly its Climate Services Information System (CSIS) component. This poster summarizes CLIPS contributions, and outlines the ongoing initiatives for CLIPS transition into GFCS.